P-ISSN: 2349-8528 E-ISSN: 2321-4902 www.chemijournal.com IJCS 2020; 8(4): 246-250 © 2020 IJCS

Received: 18-05-2020 Accepted: 21-06-2020

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Growth and yield of hybrid mustard as influenced by irrigation scheduling and nitrogen management

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.22271/chemi.2020.v8.i4d.9699

Abstrac

The field experiment entitled "Growth and yield of hybrid mustard as influenced by irrigation scheduling and nitrogen management" was conducted at the Central Research Farm, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal during *rabi* season (2017-18) in alluvial soil having medium soil fertility. It was conducted in split-plot design with three replications comprising 3-main plot irrigation scheduling treatments based in IW/CPE = 0.8, 1.0 & 1.2; and three sub-plot treatments of nitrogen @ 40, 80 & 120 kg/ha. The result of experiment revealed that the growth and yield of hybrid mustard crop was significantly influenced by both the main and sub-plot treatments. The maximum growth parameter like plant height, dry matter accumulation, CGR of hybrid mustard crop were recorded with IW/CPE=1.2 irrigation level and 120 kg N/ha. The yield attributes and yield also followed the similar trend, maximum yield was obtaied with application of 120 kg N/h under irrigation regime scheduled at IW/CPE=1.2. The yield variation due to irrigation regimes and nitrogen management was to the tune of 13.35 to 17.14% and 44.19 to 83.09%, respectively.

Keywords: Irrigation scheduling, nitrogen management, hybrid mustard, growth, yield

Introduction

Rapeseed mustard, have a significant role in Indian agriculture since almost each part of the plant is consumed either by human beings or animals depending upon the crop and its growth stage. Rapeseed-mustard crops in India include toria (Brassica campestris L. var. toria), brown sarson (B. campestris L. brown sarson), yellow sarson (B. campestris L. var. yellow sarson), Indian mustard (B. juncea L. Czernj and cosson), black mustard (B. nigra) and taramira (Eruca sativa/vesicara Mill.) species. Among them, Indian mustard is an important oilseed crop of the Indian subcontinent and contributes more than 80% of the total rapeseedmustard production of the country. The oil content of Indian mustard varies between 30 to 45.7%. It is cultivated in an area of 5.96 million hectares with a production of 8.32 million tonnes yielding 1397 kg/ha (DOAC, 2018) [4]. In India, mustard is mainly grown in North West parts of India, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are the major producing states in the country. In India, 85-90% of total rainfall is received during rainy season (July-September) and Indian mustard is grown during winter season (October-March) on conserved moisture (Ghosh et al. 2002)^[6]. The major constraint attributing to low production of mustard are scarce and untimely water supply and poor fertility status of soil. Application of irrigation at regular interval with proper nutrient management is the other two most critical inputs which can substantially increase yield of mustard (Piri et al. 2011) [11]. But the irrigated mustard is generally confined to areas with limited amounts of irrigation water, which necessitates that efficient use of water should be achieved by following the best possible irrigation schedule. Yadav et al. (2010)^[16] observed that water supply at the most critical growth stages (at flower initiation stage and siliquae development stage) achieved the maximum growth and yield attributes. However, better scientific irrigation scheduling like IW/CPE (irrigation water/ cummulative open pan evaporation) could be practiced to manage water efficiently. Nitrogen (N) is the most important nutrient, and being a protein, it is involved in several metabolic processes that strongly influence growth, productivity and quality of crops. Yield increases in Indian mustard at various locations in India have been reported with application of N as high as 150kg/ha or more (Rathore et al. 2014) [14]. But the nitrogen use efficiency is very low (30-40%) as it is lost

from soil through volatilization, leaching and runoff. Hence the problem of low NUE further stress on better nitrogen management along with irrigation management. There is not much information on the effects of irrigation scheduling and nitrogen management and their interaction on growth and yield of mustard crop. Considering this, an attempt has been made here to gain a better understanding of the relationship between crop performance and water management and nitrogen metabolism. With this objective an experiment titled "Growth and yield of hybrid mustard as influenced by irrigation scheduling and nitrogen management" was planned.

Material and Methods

The field experiment was conducted at the Central Research Farm (22°56' N latitude and 88°32' E longitude and 9.75 meter above MSL), Gayespur, Nadia, under Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal during rabi season (2017-18) in alluvial soil having medium soil fertility (228 kg/ha total N, 30 kg/ha available P₂O₅, 198 kg/ha available K₂O, 0.58% Organic Carbon with p^H 7.10). The experimental site is situated at the sub-tropical humid climate. The average annual rainfall is about 1500 mm and the mean temperature ranges from 27°C to 31°C. During the experimental period the maximum monthly temperature was achieved in December (32.48°C) and minimum monthly temperature was achieved in January (9.97°C). The total rainfall received was 71.10 mm throughout the cropping period. The field experiment was conducted in Split-Plot design with three replications comprising three main plot irrigation scheduling treatments based in IW/CPE (irrigation water/cumulative open pan evaporation ratio)= 0.8, 1.0 & 1.2; and three sub-plot treatments of Nitrogen @ 40, 80 & 120 kg/ha. Full dose of P₂O₅ (40 kg/ha), K₂O (40 kg/ha) and half dose of N (application rate as per treatment) was applied as basal doses and rest half of N was applied after 35 days. Sources of N, P2O5 and K2O were Urea, SSP and MOP respectively. The experiment was conducted with a hybrid mustard variety named as PAN 70. A common irrigation was given for good germination of the seeds. Then irrigation scheduling was followed on three main plot irrigation treatments at IW/CPE = 0.8, 1.0 & 1.2, which otherwise implies that 50 mm irrigation water was given at 62.5 mm, 50.0 mm and 41.5 mm CPE, respectively. Data regarding plant height, number of branches per plant, dry matter accumulation was observed at harvesting stage which is mentioned in this manuscript. Then Crop growth rate for 60-90 days after sowing (DAS) was determined using the formula suggested by Evans (1972) [5]. Then various yield attributes (siliqua/plant. seeds/siliqua, test weight etc) were recorded following the standard procedure at the harvesting stage. Upon harvesting sun-drying, threshing, winnowing operations of mustard crop were done and yield data were recorded. Statistical analysis and interpretation along with correlation studies of the findings were done by calculating the values of S.Em (±) [Standard error of mean] and CD at 5% [Critical difference at 5% level of significance] as described by Gomez and Gomez (1984) [7].

Result and Discussion Crop Growth Parameters

Crop growth parameters in terms of plant height, dry matter accumulation, crop growth rates (CGR), branches/plant of hybrid mustard crop was significantly influenced by scheduling of irrigation and application of different nitrogen doses (Table 1). At harvesting highest plant (150 cm) height

was recorded with IW/CPE=1.2 and the lowest was recorded with IW/CPE=0.8 (146 cm). Highest dry matter accumulation (873.6 g/m²) was recorded with IW/CPE=1.2 followed by IW/CPE=0.8 (771.1 g/m²) and the lowest was recorded with IW/CPE=1.0 (706.2 g/m²). The variation in dry matter accumulation due to irrigation regime was 13.29 to 23.70%. Similarly the CGR at 60-90 DAS was recorded the highest (12.9 g/m²/day) with IW/CPE=1.2 followed by IW/CPE=0.8 (10.8g/m²/day) and least was recorded with IW/CPE=1.0 (9.2 g/m²/day). The variation in crop growth rate at 60-90 DAS due to moisture regime was 19.44 to 40.22%. The data pertaining to number of branches also followed the similar trend, highest number of branches was observed with IW/CPE=1.2 (11.2) followed by IW/CPE=1.0 (10.7) and IW/CPE=0.8 (9.7). The significant increase in crop growth parameter like the plant height, dry matter accumulation, CGR might be due to optimum supply of soil moisture surrounding root zone by favourably improving the nutrient uptake and translocation, higher photosynthetic activities which ultimately linked with the plant growth and development. The results are substantiated by the research findings of Piri and Sharma (2006), Dadhich et al. (2015) and Rathore et al. (2017) [10, 1, 13].

Among the nitrogen management treatments in sub-plots, the application of 120kg N/ha recorded the highest plant height (155 cm) and dry matter accumulation (1041.7 g/m²) at harvesting stage. And least plant height (142 cm) and dry matter accumulation (579.4 g/m²) was observed with application of 40 kg N/ha. The variation in dry matter accumulation due to nitrogen doses was 42.74 to79.79%. Highest CGR (15.6 g/m²/day) at 60-90 DAS was recorded with 120 kg N/ha followed by 80 kg N/ha (9.4 g/m²/day) and least was recorded with 40 kg N/ha (7.9 g/m²/day). The variation in Crop growth rate at 60-90 DAS due to nitrogen doses was 65.96 to 97.46%. Again application 120 kg N/ha resulted in highest number of branches (13.7) at harvesting stage which is followed by 80 kg N/ha (9.7) and 40 kg N/ha (8.2). Nitrogen supply to mustard improved the integrity of plant structure and the key physiological processes such as light interception by chlorophyll, energy for carbohydrate build-up and enhanced the hydraulic conductivity of the root cortical cells, thereby improving the growth parameters. (Dhawan, 2002; Namara et al. 2007) [3, 9].

Yield Attributes

Irrigation scheduling had marked effects on siliqua/plant, seeds/siliqua and thousand seed weight (Table 2). Application of irrigation at IW/CPE=1.2 recorded highest number of siliqua per plant (140) and seeds per siliqua (15). The variation in numbers of siliqua per plant and seeds per siliqua due to moisture regime was upto 11.90 to 19.44% and 6.38 to 15.38%, respectively. Enhanced water supply had resulted in a higher number of siliqua/plant, seeds/siliqua. However, highest test weight was reported from the irrigation scheduling treatment with IW/CPE=1 (3.7 g). Due to regular water supply at interval following irrigation scheduling, the crop did not suffer from water stress at reproductive stages and perhaps it facilitate better translocation of photosynthates for the formation of seed under irrigated treatments. These results were in agreement with the findings reported by Rana et al. (2019), Dash et al. (2013) and Ray et al. (2015)[12,2,15]. The yield attributes of mustard improved with the subsequent doses of N along with irrigation scheduling. Application of 120 kg N/ha resulted in highest number of siliqua per plant (190), seeds per siliqua (16.1) and test weight (3.9). Least

response in this yield attributes were observed with application of 40 kg N/ha. During crop growth, supply of nutrients and availability of assimilates for pod set and seed filling are decisive factors affecting yield. For Indian mustard, the sink lies in the siliqua and seed and hence, under optimum supplies of N this greater translocation of photosynthates from leaf to siliqua resulting in robust siliqua and seeds (Hocking *et al.* 1997) [8]. Nitrogen stimulates plant growth by means of enlarged leaf canopy and a greater rate of leaf expansion, resulting in higher pods and higher seed number per pod possibly because of increased meristematic activity and development of more flowers and siliqua (Rathore *et al.* 2014) [14].

Seed Yield

The seed yield and biological of hybrid mustard crop was significantly influenced by irrigation and nitrogen management practices. The data on seed yield and biological yield substantiate this observation (Table 2). The maximum seed yield of 1606 kg/ha and maximum biological yield of 5470 kg/ha were recorded with IW/CPE=1.2. The least seed yield of 1371 kg/ha and least biological yield of 5282 kg/ha was noted in IW/CPE =0.8 irrigation schedule. Yield variation due to irrigation regimes was to the tune of 9.18 to 17.14%. The correlation study between yield attributes and seed yield revealed a high R² value ranging from 0.72 to 0.97

(Fig. 1), which indicate that increase in yield was largely attributed due to positive change in yield attributes. Moreover, adequate supply of moisture favourably improved nutrient uptake and translocation which ultimately increased the yield. The different levels of nitrogen doses applied in hybrid mustard crop had significant effect on seed yield with the variation of 26.98 to 83.09%. Among the nitrogen levels 120 kg/ha had recorded maximum seed yield of 1906 kg/ha followed by 80 kg/ha (1501 kg/ha). Similarly, the nitrogen levels of 120 kg/ha had recorded maximum biological yield of 6908 kg/ha followed by 80 kg/ha (5053 kg/ha). As mentioned earlier the higher availability of nitrogen to the mustard plant root during the crop season had augmented plant growth and further enhanced the yield attribute. These led to higher seed yield, which is also validated by the positive correlation between the yield attributes and yield data (Fig. 1).

Interaction effect of irrigation and nitrogen levels on seed yield of hybrid mustard crop was found significant (Table 3). The maximum yield of hybrid mustard 2016 kg/ha was achieved in IW/CPE=1.2 with 120 kg N/ha followed by the treatment IW/CPE=1 (1918 kg/ha) with the same dose of N/ha and the least yield was noted with the irrigation treatment of IW/CPE=1.2 with 40 kg N/ha. It was found that the enhanced moisture supply have increased the nitrogen availability to the plant throughout the crop growth, which finally resulted in high seed yield.

Table 1: Effect of irrigation schedules and nitrogen management on plant height, dry matter accumulation, CGR and number of branches of hybrid mustard

| Treatment | Plant heigth (cm) | Dry matter accumulation (g/m ² | CGR (g/m²/day) | No of branches | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| Irrigation schedule (IW/CPE) | | | | | | |
| I1-0.8 | 146 | 771.0 | 10.8 | 11.2 | | |
| I2-1.0 | 148 | 706.2 | 9.2 | 9.7 | | |
| I3-1.2 | 150 | 873.6 | 12.9 | 10.8 | | |
| S. Em (±) | 2.44 | 23.40 | 0.25 | 0.24 | | |
| CD (P=0.05) | 7.80 | 63.69 | 1.01 | 1.00 | | |
| | | Nitrogen(Kg/ha) | | | | |
| N1 – 40 | 142 | 579.4 | 7.9 | 8.2 | | |
| N2- 80 | 147 | 729.8 | 9.4 | 9.7 | | |
| N3- 120 | 155 | 1041.7 | 15.6 | 13.7 | | |
| S. Em (±) | 2.63 | 21.82 | 0.23 | 0.16 | | |
| CD (P=0.05) | 7.12 | 61.11 | 0.72 | 0.51 | | |

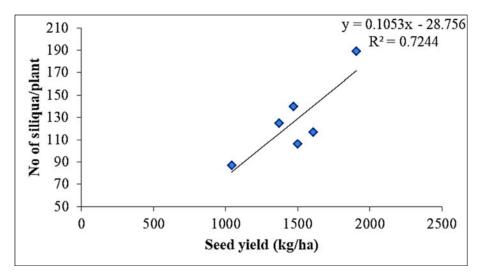
Table 2: Effect of irrigation scheduling and nitrogen management on yield attributes and yield of hybrid mustard

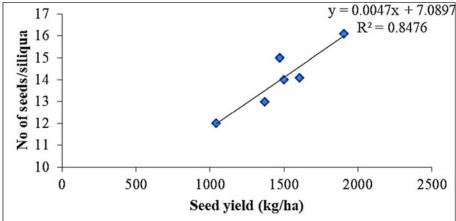
| Treatment | No of siliqua/plant | Seeds/siliqua | Test weight (g) | Biological yield (kg/ha) | Seed yield (kg/ha) |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | | Irrigation(1 | IW/CPE) | | |
| I1-0.8 | 125 | 13.0 | 3.4 | 5282 | 1371 |
| I2-1.0 | 117 | 14.1 | 3.7 | 5395 | 1471 |
| I3-1.2 | 140 | 15.0 | 3.6 | 5470 | 1606 |
| S. Em (±) | 2.54 | 0.10 | 0.004 | 57.2 | 44.8 |
| CD (P=0.05) | 6.88 | 0.41 | 0.018 | 143.1 | 112.32 |
| | | Nitrogen(| (Kg/ha) | | |
| N1 – 40 | 87 | 12.0 | 3.2 | 4470 | 1041 |
| N2- 80 | 106 | 14.0 | 3.6 | 5053 | 1501 |
| N3- 120 | 189 | 16.1 | 4.0 | 6625 | 1906 |
| S. Em (±) | 2.11 | NS | 0.015 | 54.1 | 42.3 |
| CD (P=0.05) | 6.38 | NS | 0.046 | 140.3 | 108.11 |

Table 3: Interaction effects of irrigation scheduling and nitrogen management on seed yield of hybrid mustard

| Nitrogen levels (kg /ha) | Seed yield (kg/ha) at different irrigation levels | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|------------|------|--|
| Nitrogen levels (kg/lia) | IW/CPE=0.8 | IW/CPE=1.0 | IW/CPE=1.2 | Mean | |
| 40 | 1003 | 924 | 1198 | 1041 | |
| 80 | 1327 | 1572 | 1603 | 1501 | |
| 120 | 1783 | 1918 | 2016 | 1906 | |
| Mean | 1371 | 1471 | 1606 | | |
| | Irrigation (I) | Nitrogen (N) | IXN | NXI | |

| S.Em (<u>+</u>) | 44.8 | 42.3 | 53.12 | 52.02 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| CD (P=0.05) | 112.32 | 108.11 | 135.11 | 140.23 |





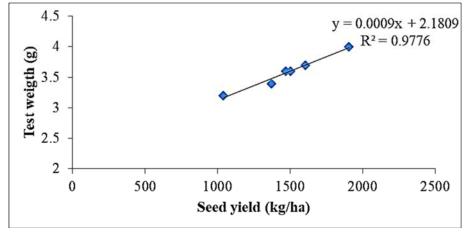


Fig 1: Correlation between yields attributes and seed yield

Conclusion

Indian mustard (*Brassica juncea*) is an important edible oilseed crop in Indian. It is mainly grown under limited water availability conditions in semi-arid areas. Proper irrigation scheduling and N management can enhance the growth and development of mustard crop and increase its productivity. Based on our findings it was concluded that irrigation scheduling done at IW/CPE=1.2 along with application of 120 kg N/ha results in higher growth and yield in hybrid mustard.

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